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The Java Native Interface: Programmer's Guide and Specification (The Java Series)

By Sheng Liang



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This book helps Java developers overcome one of the greatest programming challenges today -- how to achieve and maintain smooth integration of Java technology with the existing infrastructure. Java Native Interface (JNI) technology is the programming interface that enables Java technology programmers to leverage legacy code written in other languages, such as C and C++. (Java technology and C/C++ are projected to coexist for many years to come.) Based on the extremely popular JNI tutorial on Sun's website, Java Native Interface serves as a tutorial, programming guide, and reference for effectively using JNI technology. In addition, it offers useful tips on ways to avoid common pitfalls, and includes the complete official specification JNI.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Written for the experienced Java developer, *The Java Native Interface* documents the latest in native code programming for the Java platform using the Java Native Interface (JNI) with C/C++. Author Sheng Liang built the book around "dos and don'ts," even specifying within the introduction when you should and when you should not use JNI. Though sometimes densely written, this title certainly conveys a good deal of technical information on using native code with Java.

After a simple JNI "Hello World" code example, this book explores multiple aspects of the JNI API, starting with the use of Java strings and arrays within native code. Liang follows by transitioning into calling Java members and methods in C/C++. Here the author presents caching strategies for improving the performance of native code that interacts with or executes Java programs, including a discussion of local and global references that incorporates global weak references in Java 2.

The book also looks at handling exceptions within C/C++ code, as well as tips for working with Java threads. The author shows how to simplify access to C/C++ code through shared stubs and how to use peer classes to encapsulate native code from within Java. A section on common traps and pitfalls lists some common pitfalls to avoid when working with the JNI. After presenting the JNI specification, the author provides the most immediately useful text in the book--over 100 pages of reference material listing JNI data types and methods.

As a reference and programming guide, *The Java Native Interface* provides concise and timely technical details on getting Java and C/C++ code to coexist within your projects. --*Richard Dragan*

From the Back Cover

The Java Native Interface (JNI) enables the integration of code written in the Java programming language with code written in other languages such as C and C++. It allows programmers to take full advantage of the Java platform without having to abandon their investment in legacy code.

This book is the definitive resource and a comprehensive guide to working with the JNI. Entirely up-to-date, the book offers a tutorial, a detailed description of JNI features and programming techniques, JNI design justifications, and the official specification for all JNI types and functions.

You will find coverage of important topics such as:

- Writing native methods
- Passing data types between the Java language and native programming languages
- Embedding a Java virtual machine implementation in native applications
- Leveraging legacy native libraries
- Improving the efficiency and reliability of your code

An entire chapter is devoted to avoiding common traps and pitfalls. The book uses numerous examples to illustrate programming techniques that have proven to be effective.

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About the Author

Sheng Liang, a staff engineer in Java Software at Sun Microsystems, Inc., designed the JNI and led the Java virtual machine development for the first release of the Java 2 platform. He holds a Ph.D. in computer science from Yale University.

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